

From Evidence to Practice: A Multidisciplinary Pathway to Improve Outcomes for Patients with Head and Neck Cancer-related Dysphagia

Jenan Altamimi

Ministry of Health, Kuwait University
jenan.altamimi1@gmail.com

Abstract:

Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) is the main oncology hospital providing care to all cancer patients in Kuwait, including those with head and neck cancer (HNC). The disease and its treatment carry significant morbidity, often resulting in dysphagia, aspiration, malnutrition, and other functional complications that affect quality of life. Given these challenges, well-coordinated multidisciplinary care is essential for achieving optimal patient outcomes. Historically, HNC care at KCCC was fragmented, with limited coordination among disciplines. To address this, a multidisciplinary care pathway model was developed and implemented to unify oncology and supportive care services, improve communication, streamline management, and enhance overall patient outcomes. This presentation will introduce and describe this model, with particular focus on patients experiencing dysphagia as an example of its practical application and impact.



Biography:

Dr. Jenan obtained a PhD from Newcastle University, United Kingdom, with a thesis focusing on dysphagia in patients with head and neck cancer. Currently working as a Specialist Speech and Language Pathologist at Kuwait Cancer Control Center. An Honorary Recognized Supervisor at the University of Liverpool, supervising a PhD project on head and neck cancer-related dysphagia. Passionate about multidisciplinary, patient-centered care and a strong advocate for patient empowerment. Research interests focus on improving functional outcomes and quality of life in individuals affected by cancer.